for consolation. Manalabangs who have fairly large cornfields are often given free corn even though they offer to purchase it. In the end, however, the giver loses nothing since his "gift" will be returned when the recipient's field is harvested. The manalabang harvest shares range from several ears of corn to as many as twenty ears. 243 476

When the paddy corn is harvested corn prices are at their peak in Siaton poblacion for this is the "starvation period"--the period when many family's last harvest corn supply is running low and the new crop is still immature. The harvesters also try to buy corn from the owner; some women come just to buy or barter fish or tuba for corn. Usually the owners are not eager to sell since most of them will have to buy cornmeal before the next harvest. Yet few refuse to sell or barter some of their harvest, although they often limit the amount a person may buy. To refuse to sell some of their corn harvest would mean some barriofolk would call them "greedy." 243 433 476 435 432

Manalabangs collect a small pile of corn ears they have harvested and sit down with a definite air of possession. This is the corn they insist on buying. In one case the owner refused to sell the manalabangs the amount of corn they had requested. Collecting all the individual corn piles, he resorted them into new piles, eliminating about a third of the corn. He asked fifteen cents for each pile of corn but settled for ten cents after the women bargained. These female manalabangs had already received their share for helping in the harvest; the 243 476 432

owner was definitely annoyed that he had to sell part of his harvest. 243 476 432

The price of corn varied in the harvests. Two handsful of ears for two or three cents, fifteen ears for the same price and a centavo an ear are a few examples of the prices. Relatives are normally sold more corn and at a cheaper price than non-relatives. The other harvesters do not object. One woman gave the mother of her son's girl-friend a basketful of corn to win her favor. 243 476 435
People often eat the corn they harvest on the spot; the husked ears are roasted on hot coals. [264]

Another reason why the harvesters' assistance is normally not refused is the widespread belief in "envious people." "Envious people" can do harm to one's person or crops through magic. If the manalabangs' help were refused one of them might attempt revenge on the cultivator or his crops. Older manalabangs may silently pray as they work that the cultivator may enjoy good health and abundant harvests in coming years. As one woman said, "the manalabangs just wish good for the owner while they work." 243 476

Corn is harvested by pulling the ears from the stalks. Harvested ears are collected in a basket called bukag. Helpers never know what their share will be until the harvest is completed. If the farmer is a tenant the owner is usually present to assist in the division of the harvest. No arguments over the manalabangs' shares were ever witnessed; they may think their share is too small but they do not complain openly. [427]